

In claim 23, line 1, delete "combination" and in its place, insert --combining of--.

In claim 24, line 1, delete "combination" and in its place, insert --combining of--.

In line 6, after "is," insert --changeable in shape and--. In line 8, after "vessel," insert -- ,
whereupon it changes in shape--. In line ¹²10, delete "toward" and in its place, insert --
exterior to--.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses an assembly or a bioabsorbable occlusion assembly for introduction into an incision and for sealing an opening in the wall of a blood vessel, a sealing device, or a closure assembly, and a method of sealing an incision and an opening in a blood vessel with the assembly, where the assembly or sealing device includes, inter alia, a sheath or first member, an occlusion element or a first resorbable segment, a retaining thread or a second resorbable segment, and a locking element or a third resorbable segment arranged to be slidably mounted on the retaining thread or the second resorbable segment to apply force to the outer wall of the blood vessel or to be moved exterior to and adjacent the outer wall surface of the blood vessel, where the occlusion element or first resorbable segment and a distal section of the retaining thread or second resorbable segment are arranged to be inserted through the sheath or first member, where the occlusion element is changeable in shape and is sized to be fitted through an opening in the wall of a blood vessel and thereafter to lie generally adjacent to the inner surface wall or change in shape.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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1/13/00